

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. [REDACTED]
25X1 TOPIC Military Information from the Weisswasser Training Area

DATE PREPARED 9 July 1951

REFERENCES

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[REDACTED] with Soviet units, about 20,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets were in the Weisswasser (O 52/1 74) training area on 3 May. About 30 percent of the troops wore tank insignia, 15 percent artillery insignia and 5 percent motor transport insignia. [REDACTED] The troops arrived in the training area in the spring, and allegedly came from Cottbus. Their equipment included 200 to 300 tanks. Tank exercises involving about 400 troops were held at Rohne during the second half of May. The exercises included firing practice with live ammunition, and the Weisser Berg was used as impact area. Two T-34 tanks were loaded at the Weisswasser railroad station on 27 May. Meat for the units at the troop training grounds was stored in the cold rooms of the Butter-Noach firm at 9 Schweigstrasse, Weisswasser. The stores were guarded by a detail of about five soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Trucks which picked up meat included two

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[REDACTED] A fuel dump operated by about 20 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets was located on the premises of the Hirsch-Jahnke Company on both sides of Schweigstrasse. A Soviet komendantura staffed by 1 officer and 7 EM with red-bordered black epaulets was located in the building of the former Deutsche Reichsbank.

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* [REDACTED] Comment. The statement that the troops at the Weisswasser troop training ground came from Cottbus [REDACTED] confirm that the 9th Iecy Div is located in the Weisswasser area. The estimate of 20,000 troops at Weisswasser, which greatly exceeds the T/O strength of a mechanized division, is discredited as much as previous estimates of as many as 40,000 troops. There have been no credible indications that units other than of the 9th Iecy Div are in the Weisswasser area at present.

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